

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **November 24, 2008**.

Claims 17, 19-29 and 36-38 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejected claims 22, 24 and 36-38 under 35 USC § 102 over Shekalim (US 6971813); rejected claims 17 and 20 under 35 USC § 103 over Shekalim in view of Pacetti (US 7175874); rejected claim 19 under 35 USC § 103 over Shekalim in view of Pacetti and further in view of Layrolle (US 2001/0008649); rejected claims 21, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 USC § 103 over Shekalim in view of Shibata (JP 11-111423); rejected claims 27-29 under 35 USC § 103 over Shekalim in view of Kirk Othmer (NPL); and indicated that the previous restriction between the two coating systems was withdrawn.

By this Amendment, claims 22, 25 and 26 are amended and claim 39 is added.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled subject matter in a subsequent patent application claiming priority to the immediate application. Support for the amendments can be found in the application at least in Figure 9A, paragraphs 0067-0068 and original claim 26. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Claim Rejections

The rejections asserted in the Office Action are traversed for at least the reasons asserted in the Amendment filed 8/12/08; however, independent claim 22 is amended herein for the purpose of furthering prosecution. The amendment is believed to render all of the rejections moot. Claim 22 recites a “doctor blade,” and the Office Action does not allege that any applied reference teaches a doctor blade. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections asserted in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 17, 19-29 and 36-39 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

Date: January 23, 2009

By: /Jeremy G Laabs/
Jeremy G. Laabs
Registration No.: 53170

6640 Shady Oak Dr., Suite 400
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7834
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001